

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-05
OES-07 OMB-01 SS-15 AID-05 HEW-06 /090 W
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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1473
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS CANBERRA 6993

BANGKOK FOR DEA

MANILA FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, AS

SUBJ: PLAN FOR NATIONAL ROYAL COMMISSION INTO DRUGS

1. PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED IN PARLIAMENT OCTOBER 5 THAT
ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL ROYAL
COMMISSION INTO DRUGS.

2. THIS PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT INCLUDED FACT THAT
COMMISSION WILL BE HEADED BY JUSTICE E.S. WILLIAMS OF
QUEENSLAND SUPREME COURT AND WILL COMMENCE WORK AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE. NO TIMETABLE FOR ITS ACTIVITY HAS YET BEEN
ANNOUNCED.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMISSION COVER EXTENT AND
METHODS OF ILLEGAL PRODUCTION, TRADE AND TRAFFICKING IN
DRUGS, THE EXTENT OF ILLEGAL USE OR DIVERSION OF DRUGS
AND OF THEIR MISUSE, RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN NARCOTIC AND
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OTHER ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, THE ADEQUACY OF EXISTING LEGISLATION,
PENALTIES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRANGEMENTS IN RELATION TO
THE DRUGS PROBLEM AND PROPOSALS IF ANY FOR NEW LEGISLATION
OR OTHER MEASURES, NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL TO MEET
NARCOTICS PROBLEMS.

4. SCOPE OF COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES COVERS EVERY DRUG OR

SUBSTANCE SPECIFIED IN ANY OF THE SCHEDULES TO THE SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS OR THE CONVENTION ON PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES.

5. THE NEW NATIONAL ROYAL COMMISSION, WHICH WAS WELCOMED BY THE OPPOSITION PARTIES IN PARLIAMENT, FOLLOWS THE PRIOR CREATION OF SIMILAR ROYAL COMMISSIONS IN THE STATES OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND IS A REFLECTION OF GROWING AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CONCERN OVER THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE. IN RECENT MONTHS MUCH ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED ON THIS SUBJECT BY THE DISAPPEARANCE AND PRESUMED MURDER OF A PROMINENT PRIVATE CITIZEN IN CENTRAL NEW SOUTH WALES WHO HAD TAKEN A LEADING ROLE IN ORGANIZING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR STRONGER ENFORCEMENT OF NARCOTICS LAWS IN A REGION WIDELY BELIEVED TO CONTAIN LARGE SCALE ORGANIZED CULTIVATION OF MARIHUANA. THIS EPISODE AND OTHER BACKGROUND DEVELOPMENTS HAVE STIMULATED PUBLIC CONCERN OVER THE ROLE OF ORGANIZED CRIME IN THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM.

6. THE FOUR STATES WHICH HAD NOT ESTABLISHED SEPARATE ROYAL COMMISSIONS HAVE AGREED TO PARTICIPATE OFFICIALLY IN THE NEW NATIONAL COMMISSION BY APPOINTING THE COMMONWEALTH ROYAL COMMISSIONER TO HEAD IDENTICAL INQUIRIES UNDER STATE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY. THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT INDICATED THAT EFFORTS WOULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SEPARATE ROYAL COMMISSIONS

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PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED IN NEW SOUTH WALES AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: CANBERRA
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771084/aaaactrr.tel
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Litigation History:
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